Appl. No. 09/998,910
Amdt. dated July 29, 2008
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2142

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12, 14-27, 29-34 and 36-46 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 22, and 33 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments. No claims have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-12, 14-27, 29-34 and 36-46 are present for examination. Claims 1, 22, and 33 are independent claims.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 22, and 33 have been amended to recite the operation of "modifying the template by receiving input configured to define workflow customization options, wherein the modifying of the template is accomplished without the use of scripts by allowing a user to select and/or modify the workflow customization options which are presented to the user in a graphical user interface." Support for these amendments can be found throughout the Specification and merely by way of example at page 2, lines 26-32, page 3, lines 7-11, and page 41, lines 3-6.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-2 and 4-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,067,548 issued to Cheng ("**Cheng**"). Applicants respectfully submit that Cheng fails to anticipate the present claims.

Claim 1 and similarly claims 22 and 33, as amended, recite the operation of "modifying the template by receiving input configured to define workflow customization options, wherein the modifying of the template is accomplished *without the use of scripts* by allowing a user to select and/or modify *the workflow customization options* which are presented to the user in a graphical user interface." (Emphasis provided.) Applicants submit that Cheng fails to teach or suggest such an operation. The Specification specifically states that an aspect of the present invention is to improve upon workflow creation and customization by providing for such creation and customization without using scripts. The Specification at page 2, lines 26-32 states that "Identity System[s] allow an administrator to write a script in a computer source code

like language that defines the workflow. *One drawback of such a system that uses scripts to create workflow* is that in order for an administrator to create a workflow, *that administrator must understand how to program using the script language*." (Emphasis provided.) Accordingly, in order to overcome this shortcoming in the prior art, which Cheng suffers from as well, claim 1 recites selecting and/or modifying graphically presented workflow customization options which allow for the customization of workflows without using scripts.

In contrast, Cheng recites a "workflow system [that] support[s] the definition...by allowing an administrator to define flow map[s] through a...scripting interface." (Cheng at col. 6, ll. 17-20). Cheng further recites an example of a script used to define a workflow. (*Id.* at col. 14, ll. 1-36). Accordingly, Cheng utilizes scripts to create workflows, whereas claim 1 explicitly recites not using scripts to create customized workflows. Additionally, Applicants are unable to find any disclosure in Cheng which teaches or suggests the creation of customized workflows, as recited in claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 22, and 33 are patentable over Cheng. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 22, and 33 be withdrawn.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2-12, 14-21, 23-27, 29-32, 34 and 36-46 depend from one of independent claims 1, 22, or 33, and thus by the virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim, Applicants submit that claims 2-12, 14-21, 23-27, 29-32, 34 and 36-46 are also allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Cheng**. The Office Action has rejected claims 3 and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Cheng**, in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,080,078 issued to Slaughter et al. ("**Slaughter**").

Dependent claims 3 and 40-46 depend from claims 1 and 33. As noted above claims 1 and 33 are allowable over Cheng, and it is believed that Slaughter does not remedy the failings of Cheng noted above. Hence, claims 3 and 40-46 are believed to be allowable, at least

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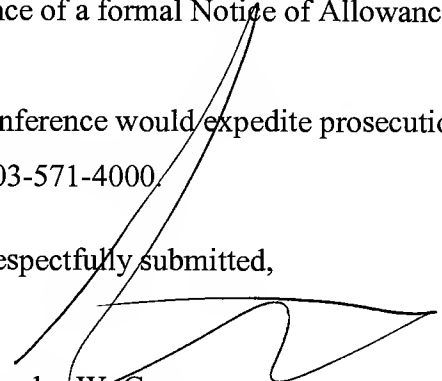Examining Group 2142

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by virtue of its dependence from allowable base claims over Cheng and Slaughter, individually, or when combined in any combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Gray
Reg. No. 61,345

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
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